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### UM skiers forfeit Big Sky crown

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UM SKIERS FORFEIT BIG SKY CROWN

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## sports

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Montana State University was the favorite to win the Big Sky skiing title at the Big Sky Championships last weekend in Boise, but nobody told Boise State that, and before they could find out, the Bronco ski team had outscored everyone else at the meet and was crowned the Big Sky Conference ski champion of 1974.

Boise scored 55 points to win the meet while MSU finished second with 51 points. Weber State College landed in third place with 30 points, easily outdistancing fourth-place finisher Montana's 17 points and fifth-place finisher Northern Arizona's 3 points.

The University of Montana ski team, which had won four straight Big Sky titles, ran into some problems at the meet.

"We ran into difficulties with eligibility and didn't take a full team to Boise," Craig Brandon, first-year coach of the Grizzlies said. "We were disappointed with our performance at Boise."

Brandon said that, despite the team's poor showing, two UM skiers managed to qualify for the NCAA skiing championships to be held in Jackson Hole, Wyo., March 7-9. Trygve Hastagen finished first in the cross-country competition at Boise and teammate Jan Brentebraten finished fifth in the cross-country race to earn a trip to the NCAA meet. The two will leave March 5 for the meet.

"I am hoping Hastagen will finish in the top ten nationally," Brandon said. Brandon said he looks for Brentebraten to fare well at the meet, also.

Brandon said Boise State had an advantage over the other teams at the Big Sky meet because they were skiing on their home slope.

"Boise scored 1, 2 and 3 in the downhill racing," Brandon said, "and I think the home slope had a lot to do with it." Brandon added that the home slope advantage is one which every Big Sky team enjoys over the years as each team is given the opportunity to host the Big Sky meet.

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